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There now seems to be no question but that, without strong constituent protest, the Mineral King legislation will die in the Senate, for two main reasons:

1-) because of the press of other matters, such as Alaska, and
2-) because of Senator Clifford Hanson's proposed amendment to prohibit downhill skiing in MK, to which Senator Cranston objects. As adjournment date nears, the Senate has a tendency to ignore controversial legislation.

The state of Calif., in a letter from Resources Secretary Huey Johnson, pointed out to the Senator that the opportunity to expand skiing in Calif. are excellent without MK. But ski-interest pressure has been intense, and the Senator wants an option for downhill skiing left up to the park service to decide, after a management plan study and public input. But Senator Hanson seems to be adamant so that Cranston, in a recent conversation with a Sierra Club director, said he would push the Santa Monica Mountains legislation but he only hoped that the MK bill would also be considered. As majority whip, of course, Cranston can do a lot more that just hope.

The House version of the MK bill was incorporated into the omnibus "National Parks & Recreation Act of 1978", which was passed by the full House. However, the Senate has no counterpart to the omnibus bill. It is reportedly putting together a "skeleton" omnibus which would include a small portion of the House omnibus. MK must be a part of that skeleton bill!

The enclosed mailer has been sent to a few thousand MK supporters. Now we can only hope that the response will be overwhelming and that Senator Cranston will be convinced that he must push his bill through the Senate to serve the best interests of the majority of his constituents.

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